Flaws in identification of BPL families

*455. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether an expert committee set up by his Ministry has pointed out that a large number of families living under chronic poverty are often excluded from Below Poverty Line (BPL) lists exposing flaws in systems of identification of BPL families by Government for implementing its mega anti-poverty programmes including Targeted Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, whether according to the panel, only 49.1 per cent of the poorest quintiles of the country possess BPL/Antoyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) cards while 17.4 per cent of richest quintiles of the population possessed a BPL/AAY card;

(c) if so, what are the other points mentioned in the report;

(d) whether Government has considered the suggestions of the expert Committee; and

(e) what steps are being taken to implement them?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI C.P. JOSHI): (a) The last BPL Census was conducted in 2002. For the next BPL Census, the Ministry of Rural Development has set up an Expert Group headed by Dr. N.C. Saxena. The Terms of Reference of the Expert Group, *inter-alia*, include recommending a suitable methodology for conducting Census. The purpose of the Census is to identify the households living Below the Poverty Line (BPL) in the rural areas who could be assisted under various poverty alleviation programmes of the Ministry. The Expert Group has not submitted its final report.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Fiscal deficit

*456. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether huge amount of over Rs. 400000 crores has been shown as fiscal deficit per the budget for the year 2009-10;

(b) the manner in which Government proposes to meet this huge fiscal deficit; and

(c) the manner in which Government met such fiscal deficits during 2007-08 and 2008-09 and the details thereof, Head-wise?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir. The fiscal deficit of the Government as per Budget Estimates 2009-2010 is Rs. 400996 crore.

(b) and (c) The financing of the deficit for the years 2007-08 (actual), 2008-09 (RE) and 2009-10 (BE) is as follows:—

(Amount in Rs. crore)

	2000-08 (Actual)	2008-09 (RE)	2009-10 (BE)
Market Loans	131768	*261972	397957
Short Term Borrowings	27481	57500	0
External Assistance	9315	9603	16047
Securities issued against Small Savings	-11302	1324	13256
State Provident Fund	3897	4800	5000
Other Receipts	-7076	-38668	-31264
Draw Down of Cash Balance	-27171	29984	0
Fiscal Deficit	126912	326515	400996

*Actual borrowing (net) in 2008-09 was Rs. 2,61,000 crore.

Drinking water Schemes

*457. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the drinking water schemes implemented in the agency areas where SC/ST people are living, State-wise, particularly in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the funds allocated and used so far under the schemes in each State, during the last three years; and

(c) the role of private people and NGOs in this regard especially in the East Godavari and West Godavari districts in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI C.P. JOSHI): Water is a State subject. Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments by providing assistance under the Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) since renamed as National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) ***w.e.f.*** 1.4.2009. The programme is implemented throughout the country including Andhra Pradesh. The programme covers areas in the State where Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people are living. The power to plan, approve and implement the scheme rests with the States. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has set up Integrated. Tribal Development Agencies (ITDAs) in ST majority areas for the implementation of Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) strategy.

(b) The State-wise allocation, release and reported expenditure by States including the expenditure incurred in respect of SC and ST population under the aforesaid programme during the last 3 years is given in the enclosed Statement (*See* below).

(c) States are free to involve private individuals and NGOs in rural water supply programme. As reported by the Government of Andhra Pradesh, Satya Sai Water Board (a Trust) is involved in the rural water supply programme in Andhra Pradesh which *inter-alia* includes East Godavari and West Godavari districts.